A.—Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA (Chief Minister).—

(*a*) Approved.

(*b*) Rs. 83 lakhs on works and establishment upto end of 30th September., 1965.

Hathikoni Project.

Q.—173. Sri. S. RUDRAPPA (Kalgi).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a revised estimate for Hathikoni Project has been prepared;

(*b*) what is the total outlay so far on the Project;

(*c*) what is the progress of the work so far on the Project ?

A.—Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA (Chief Minister).—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Rs. 34.99 lakhs to end of September 1965.

(*c*) The project is under various stages of construction, as per note enclosed.

Preliminary works such as investigation, for dam, waste weir, roads and canals are completed. Construction of residential and office building are completed. 95 per cent of the approach road to dam site is completed.

The acquisition of land for dam and submergence and borrow pits and for the approach road is completed. The land acquisition for waste weir draft and canal is under progress.

The excavation for foundation and key trench and filling of foundation in all reaches except in gerge portion is completed to the extent of 55 per cent. The earth work on both the flanks is in progress. It is scheduled to be completed by July 1966.

The work of waste weir and draft channel is in progress. The concreting of the buckets apron and the masonry work for wings is nearly complete. The design of draft channel and its allignment are finalised and work is in progress. Nearly 35 per cent of work is completed.

The irrigation sluice is completed except for well portion and erecting of shutters.

The excavation of irrigation canal is also under progress. Nearly two miles of canal is already excavated in the head reaches. The balance work is being taken up, after the disposal of tenders. The work is expected to be completed by May 1966.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Sri VEERENDRA PATIL (Minister for Public Works).—I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Notification No. GSR. 855 dated 26th February, 1966 (The Mysore Land Revenue Rules, 1965) as required under Section 198 of the Mysore Land Revenue Act, 1964.

CALLING ATTENTIQN MOTION

Re. **Grave Situation arising out of the Closure of Minerva and Mysore Textile Mills, Bangalore.**

Sri K. DEVIAH.—I call attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Labour to the grave situation arising out of the Closure of Minerva and Mysore textile Mills, Bangalore.

† Sri D. DEVARAJ URS (Minister for Labour Transport and Tourism).—In respect of calling attention motion I want to bring to the notice of the House a few facts. The Minerva and Mysore Mills have recently declared a lay out. Nearly 7 thousand workers have been laid off. Before this laying off, the Government had received a memorandum from the Management stating that their financial position was in great difficulty and they were finding it very hard to continue to work the Mills unless they were given some financial help either from the Banks or by Government coming forward to stand as guarantee. That was the position with which they were faced. The Mill products of South Indian Mills were used to be sold in Northern parts of India like Punjab. During those days of conflicts the market of those areas were affected and these Mills in the South could not freely send their goods for sale. That was one thing. Secondly, on account of credit squeeze, these Mills could not get credit in time. As a result of all these things, they have been faced with such a situation that they found it hard to continue the Mills running. This is what the memorandum stated. At the Government level, we will constitute a Committee to go into this question of closure and lay off and retrenchment in these Mills. This Committee, before any such large scale lay off and retrenchment takes place, will sit together with the management and discuss the question whether it would be possible to get over the difficulties that are in the way. We want that Committee to go into this question of Minerva and Mysore Mills and the difficulties they were facing. The Management have stated that apart from financial help and credit facilities that are required by them the level of wages and the D. A. that they are paying are higher as compared with other Mills. The D. A. these Mills are paying are higher than the wage award itself. So, they said, for some time to come they want to see that D. A. is given at a reduced scale that is being given in some other Mills especially the Davangere Mills. The workers were willing to discuss with the Management any other ideas of economising and improving the efficiency of the Mills to run on profitable basis. The Government was willing to